

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

## CHIEF UPDATES LAWMAKERS ON CRIME EMERGENCY

Now in its third month, the District's crime emergency has helped to reverse a spike in violent crime and contributed to an overall 14 percent crime reduction in DC, Chief Ramsey told a Council committee this week. In testimony before the Committee on the Judiciary, Ramsey said the combination of scheduling adjustments, extended work weeks, support from other agencies and an emergency legislative package have combined to bring down the crime rate and enhance neighborhood safety. The Chief declared the crime emergency on July 11; later that month the Council passed emergency legislation proposed by Mayor Williams that provided funding for police overtime and authorized new measures such as the use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to combat neighborhood crime. Ramsey reported that violent crime has declined 15 percent since July 12, with sharp reductions in both homicides and robberies. Homicides were running even with last year when the crime emergency began but have declined 26 percent since then, and are now running 9 percent below last year's total. Robberies, which were up 15 percent at the beginning of the crime emergency, have declined 22 percent. Now, the 2006 robbery total is only 1 percent above last year. The Chief reported that all 48 planned CCTV cameras are operational in DC neighborhoods. Preliminary data show that crime in the areas around the first set of cameras installed in August has decreased 73 percent when compared with the same time period last year. The Chief also reported on a survey of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners representing areas with cameras. They expressed overwhelming support for CCTV and said they thought the cameras were making their neighborhoods safer.

- ① Read the Chief's complete statement at:  
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/4/release/9745/year/2006>
- ① The MPDC reports weekly statistics on the crime emergency, including arrests and firearm recoveries. The latest data are at:  
<http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/2/release/9730>

## MAYOR EXTENDS EARLIER, 10 PM CURFEW HOURS THROUGH OCTOBER 19

The earlier, 10 pm start for DC's curfew that Mayor Williams first implemented in late July as a crime-prevention tool is being extended for another three weeks, the Mayor has announced. That means that, through October 19, youth age 16 and younger must continue to be off the street and out of public space from 10 pm until 6 am, seven days a week, unless they are accompanied by a parent or are engaged in certain exempted activities. The Enhanced Crime Prevention and Abatement Emergency Amendment Act of 2006 gives the Mayor the authority to set alternative curfew hours. The Mayor initially announced that the alternative, 10 pm-6 am curfew hours would be in effect beginning July 31, 2006. His latest order extends them through 11:59 pm on Thursday, October 19, the date that the emergency legislation expires. Since Chief Ramsey declared the crime emergency on July 11, MPDC officers have processed more than 3,000 curfew violators. Just over half have occurred between 10 pm and 12 midnight, which is the normal start of the curfew during the summer months and the weekend curfew during the rest of the year. In testimony before the DC Council's Judiciary Committee, the Chief noted that involvement in crime among curfew-age juveniles has declined sharply since the alternative curfew hours were first implemented. The number of curfew-age juveniles who were the victims of violent crime on public space during curfew hours has fallen by 50 percent, and the number of juveniles arrested during curfew hours has dropped 43 percent, when comparing the 59 days before the alternative curfew went into effect with the 59 days since its implementation.

- ① See the news release at:  
<http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=981>
- ① Details on DC's curfew are at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547375,mpdcNav\\_GID,1549,mpdcNav,\\_.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547375,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,_.asp)

## DC OPENS NEW UNIFIED COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

Mayor Williams joined Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Virginia Governor Tim Kaine and other regional and local representatives in dedicating the District's new Unified Communications Center (UCC) in Southeast. A state-of-the-art facility, the UCC consolidates key public safety communications functions – including 9-1-1 emergency and 3-1-1 non-emergency calls – of the MPDC, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services and the DC Emergency Management Agency. The UCC also houses the Mayor's Emergency Command Center. In the event of a regional emergency, the UCC will serve as the National Capital Region's hub for emergency response among law enforcement agencies and EMS first responders. Additionally, this advanced facility can host regional and federal authorities during national emergencies. Also housed at the UCC will be the Mayor's Citywide Call Center, which citizens reach when they dial 727-1000 to request city services. The UCC replaces the Public Safety Communications Center on McMillan Drive, NW. The PSCC will continue to serve as a backup and training facility. In addition to enhancing emergency communications and regional cooperation, the UCC, located at 2720 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE, is expected to spur economic development in the Ward 8 community. The 138,000-square-foot building includes an 11,000-square-foot child-care facility available to the UCC's nearly 400 employees. Equipped with the latest technology, the UCC is also built to GSA Security Level C and has 72-hour emergency self-sustaining capabilities.

## MPDC ISSUES 77,000 TICKETS DURING SMOOTH OPERATOR 2006

The MPDC issued a total of 77,005 Notices of Infraction for aggressive driving offenses during the 2006 regional Smooth Operator campaign. The offenses include running red lights and stop signs; following too closely; changing lanes unsafely; improper passing; and speeding. Started in 1997, Smooth Operator is regional program of more than five dozen law enforcement agencies and other traffic safety partners in the greater DC region. The goal is to reduce the incidence of aggressive driving through four concentrated enforcement "waves" during the summer months, complemented with an extensive public education media campaign. Of the citations issued by the MPDC this year, approximately 15,000 were written by police officers, with the remainder generated by the District's automated enforcement cameras. The Fourth District led the city in Smooth Operator activity this year, with more than 4,100 NOIs during the four enforcement waves. Over the past 10 years, more than 1 million tickets have been issued by area law enforcement agencies as part of Smooth Operator.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Updated Organizational Charts.** The MPDC has issued updated organizational charts reflecting some of the recent changes to the Department's structure. The new organizational charts represent the creation of the Office of Homeland Security and Counter-Terrorism and the realignment of the Special Operations Division to the Office of Security Services. View details of the MPDC structure at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,540851,mpdcNav\\_GID,1529,mpdcNav,.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,540851,mpdcNav_GID,1529,mpdcNav,.asp)

**Talk with Chief Ramsey.** Chief Ramsey discusses the DC crime emergency and other public safety matters with the public during two upcoming media appearances. On Wednesday, October 4, from 4-5 pm, the Chief has his regular segment on News Channel 8's "News Talk" program. Then on Thursday, October 5, from 10-11 am, it's "Ask the Chief" – Chief Ramsey's monthly discussion on Washington Post Radio (1500 AM, 107.7 FM). Viewers and listeners are invited to call in with questions for the Chief.

- ① Read the full news release at: <http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=979>
- ① Get detailed information on the UCC at: <http://ucc.dc.gov/>
- ① Learn more about 9-1-1, 3-1-1 and 727-1000 at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547634,mpdcNav\\_GID,1554.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547634,mpdcNav_GID,1554.asp)
- ① Details on Smooth Operator, including the 2006 results in DC, can be found at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547928,mpdcNav\\_GID,1552,mpdcNav,.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547928,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,.asp)
- ① Individuals can report aggressive drivers through the regional Smooth Operator website. These reports will help guide future enforcement efforts. Details at: <http://www.smoothoperatorprogram.com/>
- ① For information on DC's red-light and photo radar speeding reduction camera programs, visit: <http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/photoenforcement>

## DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	<b>as of 9/29/06</b>
2006: 131	
2005: 144	
% Change: -9.0%	
Closure Rate: 51.1% (67 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	<b>week end. 9/23/06</b>
Total: 1,008	
Weapons: 16	
Robbery: 13	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 17	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 34	
Narcotics: 166	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	<b>week end. 9/23/06</b>
Total Arrests: 62	
Robbery: 9	
Weapons: 6	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 3	
Curfew Violators: 204	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	<b>as of 9.27/06</b>
September: 140	
2006 Total: 1,766	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	<b>as of 9/29/06</b>
2006: 32	
2005: 37	
% Change: -13.5%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**